

＜翻 訳＞

H A I K U

translated into English

Yuzuru Miura

Preface

The translation of Haiku is now being attempted by not a few people foreign or Japanese, but many of the translations are arrantly irrelevant. In reading those translations, you often come across haiku poems that do not convey to you any feeling. I am greatly dubious whether translators have made a good choice of haiku which is to be translated. The problem is that translators are putting into English haiku which they themselves have not been emotionally moved by.

To avoid this absurdity, I propose that translators should keep in mind the three points. First, it is desirable that translators themselves should be haiku poets. Second, some haiku poems are able to be translated, while some are not. Haiku poems with particular Japanese fauna, flora, foods and the like are often untranslatable. translating a verse is a kind of re-creation. What counts is to transmit poesy in the original, but no tto transplant words as they are placed in order.

In my translation these three propositions have been duly considered, and on top of them another two projects have been ventured. One of them is that some haiku poems of my own making have been rendered into English. It goes with my first proposition. The other is that some works of obscure haiku poets have been translated. At present, in Japan a great many people

enjoy composing haiku. And among the works of those amateur haiku poets good haiku poems are found frequently. Modern haiku might be said to be kept alive by non-professional haiku poets, whereas in the eighteenth century haiku centered around the great masters like Basho, Buson and the rest.

Finally, I would like to add the fact that all the examples given are haiku that created a great impression upon me.

I am well aware that my translation is an incomplete one, but this is my best possible accomplishment in which I have tried to convey poesy in the original across the barrier of language. I believe that as W. H. Auden puts it, "in the history of literature it is extraordinary how profitable misunderstanding of poems in foreign languages has been."

Yuzuru Miura

Haiku in translation

おちぜみ いのち す
落 蟬 の あ え か な 命 肢 を 摩 る

三 浦 謙

How ephemeral!

A fallen cicada

Rubbing its limbs.

Miura-Yuzuru

夏萩や夕餉をひとりこもりづま隠妻

三 浦 謙

Admiring Natsu-Hagi

A mistress having

A solitary dinner.

Miura-Yuzuru

朝明けの木立おもてや初霞

三 浦 謙

At daybreak

Mist hanging over the thicket

On New Year's Day

Miura-Yuzuru

^{くさもみじ}
草紅葉風颯々と野路の秋

三 浦 謙

The wind blowing

Over the yellow-turned grasses

Stretching along the autumn road.

Miura-Yuzuru

^{こいあきびと}
恋商人ゆるやかに着る綾羅かな

三 浦 謙

A harlot

Leisurely wearing

A flimsy garment.

Miura-Yuzuru

四日市に、ボケ老人の収容施設がある。訪問客の問いかけに、ある老媼は、
微笑しながら、あらぬ^{いらえ}応答をしていた。土地の者は、かれらを二度童子^{にどわらし}とよんでいる。

秋意泌む何を笑うか二度童子^{にどわらし}

三 浦 謙

There stands an asylum for senile people at Yokkaichi City, Mie-ken. When asked by a visitor, an oldster was answering beside the

question. They are called by the local people “Nido-warashi” or reborn children.

Autumn deepening;

What causes your laughter,

Infantile oldster?

Miura-Yuzuru

ほのかにもみじろぐ^{いのち}命うすら^{まゆ}繭

阿部憲三郎

An obscure life

Stirring through

A crystal cocoon.

Abe-Kenzaburoh

浮寝鳥かわして^{あま}蟹の舟戻る

森田俊一

A fisherman's boat back

Shunning water birds

Asleep at sea.

Morita-Shunichi

われらなきのちは無縁の墓洗う

田中美映子

We wash the family gravestone

Destined to be deserted

After our death.

Tanaka-Mieko

雑木山地鳥の地鳴き春隣り

柘 植 瓢 六

Spring near at hand;
In the coppice
Indigenous birds calling for love.

Tsuge-Hyohroku

声出さぬ一人の日々よ春隣り

小 林 幸

Spring just around the corner;
One solitary speechless day
After another.

Kobayashi-Sachi

流燈の流るる川は浄土川

傍 島 弘 哉

Lighted paper lanterns
Drifting on the water
Towards Paradise.

Sobajima-Kohsai

深秋や身にふるるもの皆いのち

原 こ う 子

In the depth of autumn
Everything tangible
Looks enlivened.

Hara-Kohko

め て ゆん で かじか たが
右手左手悴み 違え 染めすすぐ

奥 村 美 秀

My sword hand and bow hand

Unevenly benumbed with cold

In the dyeing and rinsing process.

Okumura-Yoshihide

In this poem is vividly depicted the winter ordeal of dyeing business.

みあかしに浮みて 大き寝 釈迦かな

川 端 久 夫

Reposing Buddha statue

Looms larger

When illuminated by lighted candles.

Kawabata-Hisao

On the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Buddha are presented the offerings of flowers and candles to a Buddha statue at a temple.

雪嶺のせつなきまでに 白く立つ

木 村 逸 秋

Radiance of the silvery sight

Of snow peaks

Surpasses the utterance of admiration.

Kimura-Isshu

霞切のをちの 鋭^{とごえ}声や 朝ぐもり

水 原 秋 桜 子

On a hazy morning
Yoshikiri shrilling
At a distance.

Mizuhara-Shūohshi

女遍路満願の日の薄化粧

村 上 美 枝

A woman pilgrim
Doing a slight make-up
On a completion of her journey.

Murakami-Mie

冬蜂の死にどころなく歩きけり

村 上 鬼 城

A winter bee
Went on tottering
For a place of death in vain.

Murakami-Kijoh

奥白根かの世の雪をかがやかす

前 田 普 羅

The Oku-Shirane Range
Brightening with the snow
Of the world beyond.

Maeda-Fura

炎屋の女体のふかさはかられず

加 藤 楸 邨

Even in the blazing heat

A woman's desire

Keeps flaring up.

Katoh-Shūson

昼寝ざめ大いなる空そのままに

高橋 たみ子

On my awakening from a nap

The great vault of heaven

Remains unaltered.

Takahashi-Tamiko

依稀として暮るる比叡と釣忍

日 野 草 城

Hanging polypodies

Against Mt. Hiei

Blurred in the gathering twilight.

Hino-Sohjo

水晶の念珠に映る若葉かな

川 端 茅 舎

Young green leaves

Mirrored in the crystal beads

Of my rosary.

Kawabata-Bohsha

葉鶏頭のいただき踊る驟雨かな

杉 田 久 女

In the driving rain
 Top leaves of the amaranth
 Capering and gamboling.

Sugita-Hisajo

時雨馳せ鬱^{うこん}金の花のさかりなる

大 野 林 火

The winter shower rushing past,
 Turmeric flowers
 In full bloom.

Ohno-Rinka

明治三十八年十二月二日 於旅順

爆破せしあと磊^{らいらい}々と冬の石

(二龍山)

森 鷗 外

December 2, 1905 at Niryu-zan, Port Arthur, one of the hard-fought battlefields in the Russo-Japanese War

After blasting
 Heaps of broken rocks
 Dotted in the winter moor.

Mori-Ohgai

大塚楠緒子の死を悼む

有るほどの菊抛げいれよ棺のうち

夏 目 漱 石

On the occasion of the death of Ohtsuka-Naoko

Throw into the coffin
All the chrysanthemums
You have!

Natsume-Sohseki

さびしさの眼の行く方や石^つ路^はの花

大 島 蓼 太

In loneliness
My eyes involuntarily
Directed towards the flowers of Tsuwa.

Ohshima-Ryohta

The yellow flowers of Tsuwa or Ishibuki will come out around
October at the corner of a yard or beside the rocks.

春の海ひねもすのたりのたりかな

与 謝 蕪 村

In the springtime sea
Waves undulating and undulating
All day long.

Yosa-Buson